

# Public Affairs Office Weekly Report

June 30, 2020

## Hot Issues:

PAO is coordinating with SEMD on a number of news releases for proposed plans at Superfund sites, including coordinating news releases and virtual public meetings.

## News Releases:

June 30: [EPA Selects Remedy to Protect Residents at Arsenic Mine Superfund Site in Kent, New York](#)

## Upcoming News Releases:

- Proposed Plan for Unimatic Superfund Site OU2
- Proposed Plan for Riverside Park Superfund Site

## Upcoming Community Meetings:

- Diamond Alkali/Passaic River CAG meeting, July 9
- Newtown Creek CAG meeting, July 15
- Hoosick Falls CPWG, July 22
- Unimatic Virtual Public Meeting, July 23
- Riverside Industrial Virtual Public Meeting, July TBD

## Past Week:

### Wolff-Alport

PAO is working with SEMD on the following action items for the Wolff-Alport Superfund site: 1) identify resources for small businesses affected by relocation; 2) draft a letter to agencies interested in supporting small businesses affected by relocation; and 3) discuss a timeline for forward movement. We also began brainstorming ideas for a virtual open house where small business owners and support agencies can meet and discuss possible partnerships through the relocation process. (POC: Donette Samuel)

### Cornell Dubilier

The EPA trailer is on site and work to install the water line is being prepared. A community update factsheet was shared with the town and community members. The factsheets are also located in the trailers should someone need additional information. (POC: Pat Seppi)

### Arsenic Mine

The Arsenic Mine Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on June 29. EPA shared the fact sheet and press release with local officials and the community, in particular, the residents who may be relocated. Now that the ROD has been issued, EPA and New York State will enter into a Superfund State Contract later this summer through which New York State will commit to, among other things, cost share the remedy with EPA. After that EPA will enter into an interagency agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which on EPA's behalf, will perform the relocation and will hire contractors to perform the demolition of the vacated houses. (POC: Pat Seppi)

**Mansfield Trail Dump**

Outreach to CAG members and local officials has been conducted with site updates and additional information, including that the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for Mansfield has moved to a different position. Once a new RPM is in place, the residents will be notified. A CAG meeting will be scheduled in the near future. (POC: Pat Seppi)

**Fried Industries**

EPA participated in a call with the town of East Brunswick, DEP, the Contractor and a company that traps and relocates beavers. There is a serious flooding problem at the site due to a large beaver dam that prohibits us from sampling our wells. EPA has been in contact with the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife quite a few times to try and get them on board to help with the beaver problem, but they haven't provided any assistance to date. To that end, the USACE contractor is concerned because the flood waters are too high for taking samples at the wells. The contractor reached out to a local company to get an estimate which would charge \$350 per beaver (there are at least ten of them). Removing the dam is an extra cost. DEP should be able to do it through their Fish and Wildlife division for free, and we will continue to reach out to them. Note that DEP employees are furloughed making scheduling difficult. (POC: Pat Seppi)

**Pohatcong**

EPA participated in a call with Greenwich Township, their town engineer, Rio Tinto, Arcadis and the USACE to discuss the milling and paving that will happen shortly in Greenwich Township. The town expressed their gratitude that both sides of the road will be paved – originally only the side where the pipes were installed was going to be paved. (POC: Pat Seppi)

**Columbia Smelting/Red Hook Park**

EPA staff participated in a virtual meeting with local Red Hook community groups and NYC Parks on June 25. The focus of the call was the status of work at Red Hook Park ball fields 5 – 9. Other topics of discussion included CAG formation, community engagement and availability of site related information in other languages and opportunities for further engagement. The community groups will be meeting (without EPA) to discuss CAG formation and expects to host another meeting with the Columbia Smelting project team within the next two weeks. (POC: Natalie Loney)

**Upcoming:****Unimatic**

The Unimatic virtual Public Meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 6:00pm-8:00pm EST. In preparation for the meeting, the court reporter and the newspaper announcement were confirmed on June 29 and the SPP page is being updated to include the Proposed Plan, latest factsheet, and meeting details. (POC: Donette Samuel)

**Sherwin Williams**

A community update regarding resuming work at the Sherwin Williams site will be shared with Sherwin Williams and the contractor. EPA will also notify Voorhees Township where the four Kirkwood Lake properties are located about speaking to the residents whose homes will be remediated and restored. (POC: Pat Seppi)

**Pohatcong**

EPA will be sending out letters to the 30 outlier properties regarding the testing that will begin this fall to determine if POET systems are needed on their wells. EPA will not need new access agreements since the ones we've used in the past are general in nature and fit the sampling protocol. Rio Tinto's contractor will schedule the times to visit the properties. (POC: Pat Seppi)

**Onondaga Lake (Lower Ley Creek subsite):** EPA is working on developing a communications strategy for the Lower Ley Creek subsite and Ley Creek Deferred Media portion of the General Motors – Inland Fisher Guide subsite of the Onondaga Lake Superfund site to develop systematic communications with local residential, commercial, and industrial entities, as well as elected officials, through consistent engagement to support EPA's design and remedial action activities. (POC: Larisa Romanowski)

**Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items: Updated by Sabina 6/26**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date Sent to RA's Office</u>	<u>Required By/Due Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kiryas Joel – RA to share letter sent to NYSDEC with Orange County attorney, Langdon Chapman	3/9/2020		Mary shared WD draft